



GREATER MEMPHIS ARTS COUNCIL

The Greater Memphis Arts Council was established in 1963 to raise funds to ensure excellence in the arts and build a vibrant cultural community for everyone. The Arts Council is the 9th largest united arts fund in the United States – raising more than \$3 million annually to support the arts in this region. The Arts Council also administers Arts for Children and Teachers and Student Ticket Subsidy, which bring the arts to thousands of area schoolchildren every year. The Arts Council mainly serves Shelby County, however, certain programs also serve the surrounding counties of Benton, Carroll, Crocket, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion, Tipton, and Weakly.

The Arts Council accomplished the following last year:

- Organizations receiving operating support (listed below) reached 79,496 underserved persons.
- Through grassroots art projects, Arts Build Community grantees reached 24,516 underserved persons.
- The Arts for Children and Teachers program integrated arts into the school curricula of over 8,500 students, approximately 75% of whom take part in the free lunch program.
- Student Ticket Subsidy arts performances reached 61,288 area students this school year, many of whom are under the burden of poverty.
- Nearly 10,000 Arts Access brochures were distributed to TennCare/Church Health Center patients and Food Stamp recipients this year enabling them to receive free tickets to performances and exhibitions.

In addition to serving the underserved, funds distributed by the Arts Council builds the capacity of arts organizations. Arts organizations are doing their part for our community's economy. An arts impact study by Americans for the Arts in 2003 revealed that local non-profit arts organizations generate \$101.7 million in local economic activity.

Organizations receiving operating support from the Arts Council:

Africa in April, Ballet Memphis, Beale Street Caravan, Beethoven Club, Blues Foundation, Concerts International, Cultural Development Foundation of Memphis, Dance Works, Delta Axis, Germantown Community Theatre, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Memphis Vocal Arts Ensemble, The Metal Museum, Opera Memphis, Playhouse on the Square/The Circuit Playhouse, Theatre Memphis, Theatreworks, UrbanArt Commission, and Voices of the South.

To find out more about the Arts Council or about arts events go to www.memphisartscouncil.org

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